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GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1837.

Agricultural and Mechanic Exhibitions.

There is something exceeding pleasant in perusing the various notices of the liberal manner in which the labor of the farmer has been rewarded the past season in almost every part of our country, as in the success of the agriculturist is found the surest proof of the prosperity of all other classes. In our abundant crops we behold the extinguishment of our debts at home and abroad; the restoration of confidence; the resumption of specie payments; and a return to the days of commercial, manufacturing, and general prosperity, which for a few months has been so sadly interrupted. By the labor of the farmer and the mechanic, absolute value is produced from the earth or the raw material; a value not depending on the rate of commercial exchanges, or the will of foreign or domestic bankers, though these may have some influence in determining the rate of value to be put upon them.

The gloom which has overshadowed the interests of the merchant and the manufacturer, has scarcely reached the farmer; thus affording the most conclusive testimony of the superior advantages of the tiller of the soil, over him whose prosperity is dependent on others, or the caprice of the times. Nothing can show this more clearly than the spirit which has pervaded the numerous meetings of the producing classes, which, under the names of agricultural societies, mechanics' institutes, &c. have been held in various parts of the northern and middle states. At these meetings little complaint is heard of hard times, or wailings about the currency. Farmers are not the men who, on their own account, are apt to be indebted to banks; and their suspension or non-suspension, the experience of the present year has demonstrated, does not materially effect their interests. Their dealings are with an incorporation not liable to failure; and the drafts of industry are rarely dishonored at the banks where their deposits are made, and for which ample credit is always given.

The universal sentiment which has pervaded these associations at their annual festivals, has been that of joy at their prosperity, and the success of their labors. The grumblers and the discontented were left at home; or if not, the proof of abundance, of full barns, of ample reward for labor, and the direct road to health and competence was so apparent, that they were shamed and silenced. The mechanics' fair at Boston was a noble instance of what a few public spirited individuals can accomplish, and verily they have had their reward. Their exhibition of the productions of our fields, our looms, and our work-shops, was most honorable to all concerned. More than seventy thousand visitors, and a receipt of twelve thousand dollars, attest the interest taken by the public in such exhibitions. The late fair of the American Institute at New York, we learn from those who were present, far exceeded all former ones, splendid and useful as they have been, in the extent, value, elegance, utility and number of the articles presented, as well as in the crowds of visitors that daily thronged the garden at Niblo's, and the spacious rooms of the Institute. We intend to present a more particular account of this exhibition, when the details are published.

If any thing could be wanting in proof of the excellent effect of these meetings of associations, fairs, and institutes, the experience of the present year furnishes the evidence in abundance. Such exhibitions as those of the Boston fair, and the N. Y. Institute, do more to annihilate petty jealousies, and draw closer the bonds of union between the north, the south, and the west, than all the speechifying of the Washington orators, that takes place in a twelve month. The southern planter meets the men who have taken from his hands one-third of his whole crop of cotton, furnishing a market at home, and saving much of the expense of transportation. The northern man is brought into contact with the purchaser of his manufactures, and both buyer and seller part with more favorable sentiments respecting each other than they have entertained, while transacting business with so many interested individuals between. The western man sees in the manufacturing population of the east, and in the cities of that country, a market for the rich produce of his fields, and no longer fears a glut of the market, from the continued influx of beef and flour he sees pouring through every avenue from the fertile west to the ocean. The mechanic surveys the various implements and machines, and gathers hints for the construction of new or the improvement of old ones. Thus all are benefited, and all retire with more enlarged ideas of the capabilities of our country, and the irrepressible energies of its population.

Selling Grain.

We think there can be little doubt that in most cases the best time by far for the farmers to dispose of their surplus produce, is after the harvest and before the closing of the canal. Where there is much sowing to be done, as there usually is in Western New York, the disposing of one crop must give way to the preparations for another, even at the risk of a little loss; but where there is no difficulty in the way, nine times out of ten loss is sustained by not disposing of the crop in the fall. There are conclusive reasons why this must be the case, admitting the prices are the same in the fall of one year, and the summer of the succeeding one.

The shrinkage and waste of grain when kept over the winter, may be mentioned as the first source of loss to the farmer. Farmers in general are not aware of the deficiency created by the action of these two causes. Experiments carefully conducted have shown that the shrinkage alone in wheat, corn and barley, in the course of the year, that is, from the time it is marketable at harvest, till harvest comes again, varies from five to eight per cent.; and the loss from handling, by mice, &c., has been estimated at nearly as much more. That the loss from both causes will not fall short of ten per cent. in the course of the year, can scarcely be doubted; and it certainly will not be less in the case of oats and peas. In addition to this sum lost by shrinkage, &c. there is that occasioned by the not having the use of the money for which the wheat or other grain would have sold in the fall, and this, if a year should intervene, would be seven per cent. more.

Let us see what the farmer who has one hundred bushels of wheat to sell in October loses by keeping it to July, or nine months, allowing prices to be the same. By selling in October he gets one hundred and fifty dollars, when wheat is one dollar and fifty cents a bushel, and the interest of this sum for nine months, seven dollars and $\frac{87}{100}$, making $157,87 for his wheat. If he keeps his wheat nine months, and sells for the same price that he could have got in the fall, he loses the shrinkage, &c. amounting to $11,25, and to this must be added the interest on what he might have had in the fall, making together no less than $19,12, on one hundred bushels of wheat. If we have erred in this calculation, or if there is proof that the shrinkage and loss is less than we have stated, we shall be happy to be set right, as this is a matter of no trifling importance to our farmers, involving as it does nearly twenty per cent. of their sales, and in some cases perhaps all their profits.

Shaker Pig-Stye.

"The pig-stye at Canterbury is well worth a visit for the neatness, yes, the neatness of a pig-stye! and the admirable and happy condition of its tenants. Twenty or thirty swine in clean swept styes, whose average weight at killing time, will be between four and five hundred pounds, is a sight which Parson Trullive would have looked upon with extacy. The whole care of the swine in one building devolves upon one man, whose feeding tubs, and pails, and dippers, and cloths, were as neatly arranged as in any lady's kitchen. The troughs are so arranged that the pigs are shut away from them while filling; of course there is no interference or squealing from the hungry expectants. The food given them is always cooked and the Shakers consider a portion of rye mixed with the corn as very much improving their food. Their experience leads them to the conclusion that it would be better to buy rye at a quarter of a dollar more a bushel than corn, to mix with corn in equal parts, than to give their swine Indian meal alone."

This extract, which we find copied from Mr. Colman's letters, while it shows the value of neatness in fattening pork, and the importance of cooked and mixed food, reminds us of a remark made by a farmer remarkable for the weight and quality of his pork. He said he always mixed oats in the proportion of one-third with his corn for grinding, and his experience had taught him that he had better pay the price of corn for his oats, than to feed corn without them; and if success be a test of correctness in farming, he was right.—*Editor Far.*

Shaker Barn.

The English agricultural journals are warmly praising a mode of curing hay by ventilating the stacks or mows, and thus preventing mold or must; it will be seen by the following extract from the same writer's papers, that ventilation is no new thing among the Shakers. Is it a wonder that men who manage with such care and skill grow rich rapidly?—and would not the majority of our farmers be benefitted by taking a few lessons of neatness and prudence in farm management from them.

"The great object of agricultural curiosity at Hancock, is their magnificent circular stone barn, two stories in height, and ninety-six feet in diameter. The great mow is in the center, and is said to be capable of containing four hundred tons of hay. The floor, or drive way, is on the outside of the circle, and the team goes round and comes out of the same door by which it enters. By all passing in the same direction, several teams can stand on the floor and be unloaded at the same time. In the center of this mow a large mast or post is erected, reaching from the ground to the roof, which is crowned with a small cupola. Slats, or pieces of plank, are secured around this post at a small distance from it, to prevent the hay from coming in contact with it, and the hay at the bottom being raised from the ground, a perfect ventilation is kept up, and the steam from the new hay is effectually carried off."

Singular Baptismal Font.

In the church of St. Sulpice, one of the most celebrated Catholic churches of Paris, the font for the baptism of infants, is the shell of a species of muscle found in the East Indies, and was presented to Francis the First by the Venetians. It is called the Boat Shell, *Chama gigas*, and is thus noticed in a late number of Silliman's Journal:

"This fine and well known bivalve is chiefly found in the bay of Tappanuli, in Summatra, but is found around New Guinea, and other parts of the east. It lies in moderately deep water, and frequently grows to a large size. One shell, described by Linnæus, weighed 489 pounds, and he says the inhabitant of such a shell has been known to furnish 120 men with a day's food. Sir Joseph Banks

had an account of one that weighed five hundred and seven pounds; the largest valve measured four feet six inches in length, two feet five inches in breadth, and one foot in depth. Large pearls are sometimes found in them, and the same gentleman had one which was valued at between nine hundred and twelve hundred dollars. The shell is worked by the natives of Summatra into arm rings and other ornaments, and in the hands of their artists is found to take a polish equal to the finest statuary marble. They are several inches thick, of a beautiful white or pearl color, and might probably be useful in the fine arts. They are taken by thrusting a long bamboo or cane between the valves as they lie open in the water, when by the immediate closure that follows they are made fast, and drawn into boats."

Quaker Cheese-Press.

A cheese-press called by this name was exhibited at the Mechanics' fair at Boston, and attracted the notice and approbation of most of the dairy people present. It is a self-adjusting press, and its principal advantage appears to be, that the weight of the cheese presses itself, no other weight or levers being necessary; and that it can be made to press one or more cheeses at the same time, a property which the makers of cheese will know how to appreciate.

Wood Hardening.

It is said that where wood is required to be of great hardness and smoothness, as it sometimes is for mechanical purposes, that boiling it for a few minutes in olive oil, will give that desired property. Such wood is particularly adapted for the wheels of blocks or pulleys.

BREAD STUFFS.—The hopes which have been long indulged of a reduction in the price of Flour, seem less and less likely to be realized. On the other hand, prices in the New York and in the Southern Flour Markets have been ascending gradually for some time past. The reader will find in another page, an interesting view of this subject, from one of our millers. We also give an article from the Richmond Enquirer, from which it will be seen that wheat was selling at the latest dates in Richmond and Baltimore, at $1,90 to $2,00 per bushel.

From the Farmers' Register.

Account of the Soils and Agriculture of Western New York.

During a recent visit into the interior of New York, I had an opportunity of forming some idea of the extent and fertility, the agricultural products and resources, of that interesting portion of our country. As there is a natural desire among the intelligent part of the agricultural community, to be informed of the comparative advantages and the practices of other states, I venture to submit the result of my observations to the readers of the Farmers' Register.

The western part of New York is undoubtedly one of the most fertile and productive districts in the United States. From Utica to Niagara, a distance of two hundred miles, the soil is capable, with some inconsiderable exceptions, of sustaining a population as dense as that which exists in any part of the old world. Even now the number of inhabitants is very great, notwithstanding the constant tide of emigration to the new and fertile regions of the west; and this cause alone will probably prevent it from reaching its maximim during the present century. With unexampled facilities for the transportation of produce to market, and with abundant means at hand for the continual improvement of the soil, nothing is wanting but intelligence and stability to make a garden spot of this extensive region. The climate alone may be considered as unfriendly: for winter intrudes upon nearly half the year, which causes a heavy draught on the labor of the country during the season of vegetation.

In estimating the agricultural merits of a country, its natural structure may be regarded as an important object of consideration. I shall, therefore, introduce such remarks on this subject as would probably occur to any person whose attention might be directed to it. I regret, however, that I was not able to have access to the report of the geologists of the state, made to the last session of the legislature, that I might avoid those errors into which a traveler may inadvertently fall, from the slight examination it is in his power to make. But I trust that if my description shall be thought erroneous in some of the details, it will yet be found sufficiently accurate to answer the purpose for which it is introduced.

A traveler then would naturally lay off the western part of New York into three divisions: 1, from Lake Ontario to the Gravel Ridge, commonly called the ridge road: 2, from the ridge road to the mountain ridge: and 3, from the mountain ridge to the Pennsylvania line. Upon each of these divisions I will offer some remarks.

The tract of country lying on the shore of lake Ontario, and extending to the ridge road, may be from five to ten miles in width. It is but slightly elevated above the level of the lake, and so perfectly flat and unbroken, that the motion of the streams is sluggish in the extreme. The soil, however, which is a black sandy loam, does not appear to be retentive of moisture; and having a slight admixture of lime in its composition, is very productive of corn and oats, when it can be successfully drained; and moderately so of wheat. Its low situation must render it injurious to health. The ridge, which constitutes the southern boundary of this division, presents a curious and remarkable feature; and indeed is perfectly anomalous, as far as my information extends, with the exception of a similar embankment on the south side of Lake Erie. It is apparently elevated about twenty-five or thirty feet above the level of the land on the north, and something less above that on the southern side. It is almost wholly composed of sand and gravel. At one place where there had been an excavation for the purpose of getting materials to construct a road, there was only a small portion of sand on the surface. The pebbles, which are smooth and formed of red sand stone, were without a particle of other matter among them, except a deposite of lime, which served to cement them slightly together. This fact alone shows the presence of lime in the adjacent soils. It was no doubt held in solution by the waters, which once covered the country, and deposited equally over every part. To what cause this natural embankment is owing, it may be difficult to explain. It will be perceived from the description, that it is of diluvial formation; and many persons have supposod that it constituted the former boundary of the lake. To this theory, however, there are several objections. One is, the absence of a corresponding formation on the northern shore of the lake; another is, that the bank is considerably elevated above the land on its southern border; and a third one is, that near the western extremity, there is an entire interruption for several miles, where no traces of it can be found. Towards the western termination of the eastern portion, the ridge deflects suddenly to the south, and shortly becomes merged in the general surface. Traveling thence to the west, it is met with again at the distance of six miles, when the ascent to the summit is somewhat abrupt. That its existence, however, was connected with the vast bodies of water to the north, cannot be questioned. At a distant era, and during the convulsive throes of nature, we may suppose that a tremendous wave or succession of waves rolled in from the north, sweeping the earth as they advanced, and that they expended their force at this point. But to whatever cause its origin may be referred, it forms during its whole length a natural road, not to be surpassed in excellence, nor equaled in durability, by the most approved work of artificial construction. Its summit is not more than sufficiently broad for a road of convenient width, and generally speaking, the surface is equally smooth in winter and summer. Along such a great thoroughfare, it may readily be supposed that the population is very numerous. Accordingly each side presents somewhat the appearance of a continuous village. The houses are generally on the declivities, and so near the road as only to allow of yards of the most contracted dimensions.

The next division, embraced between the ridge road and the mountain ridge, presents a more varied surface than the one I have just described. In some parts it is quite broken, with sandy and gravelly hills of diluvial formation running from north to south, and plainly marking the direction of the currents which once swept over it. For the most part, however, it is a beautiful undulating country, with a soil of good texture, sometimes rather heavy; impregnated with lime, but not belonging to the lime-stone formation. The red sand-stone forms the basis of this region as well as of the other. A great number of granitic boulders are scattered over the surface, which, from the total absence of such original formations in the western part of the state, were evidently brought from beyond the lakes. Broken lime-stone rocks are also to be met with. It is through this tract that the Erie canal is taken for a considerable distance; and the benefits, which have resulted from that great public work are no where so strikingly displayed. Villages have sprung up along the whole line, as if by enchantment, and the industry of man is developed in a thousand ways.

There are, however, some portions of this district that are very imperfectly drained—large swamps of fertile land, yet remaining in a state of nature. The chief obstacle to effectual draining is the gravel ridge, through which the streams have, in some instances, found a difficulty in effecting a passage. It was highly interesting to witness the abortive efforts of one of these in particular, repeatedly made during a distance of eight miles. Approaching the embankment in the first instance rather obliquely, it was repelled, after having made a considerable excavation into its side, when it flowed back as if to acquire fresh strength to return to the attack. This was renewed at various intervals, with the same partial success; but at length the object was achieved, and it pursued its sluggish course to the lake. At some points it has been found necessary to open a passage through the ridge to let off the superfluous water; and much yet remains to be done, owing to the small number and size of the streams, seeking for an outlet, and finding but few.

The southern boundary of this division is not so distinctly marked towards the eastern, as it is at the western extremity. At Williamston, on the Niagara river, and at Lockport, the mountain ridge is probably a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet in height, presenting to the eye the appearance of a *bluff*. Traveling east from thence, its relative altitude becomes gradually less conspicuous, until at length it is difficult for a casual observer to distinguish the line of separation.

But the most important portion of the state is the one which remains to be considered, whether we regard its extent, its fertility, its population or resources. The other districts are deservedly thought to be fertile, and would be eminently entitled to that character if they were situated on the eastern side of the mountains; but this far transcends them in every natural advantage. After ascending the mountain ridge, a vast table land stretches to the south, high, dry, and gently undulating, and possessing a climate remarkable for its salubrity. This is the limestone region of the state; and it is here that the beautiful and picturesque lakes are found, which form so unique a feature in the geographical history of New York. The limestone overlies the red sand-stone to the depth of perhaps five or six hundred feet; and in many places the soil is covered with broken fragments of the same, mixed with boulders of different varieties of granite. Where these occur in considerable numbers, it requires great labor to subdue the land and prepare it for cultivation; but they are not considered such a serious objection as one might suppose, who has not been accustomed to them. They furnish materials for building houses and making enclosures; the latter of which, when put up with skill, require but little trouble to be kept in repair. This, however, is but a small portion of the service they have performed; exposed, for ages, to the action of the elements, they have become obviously disintegrated, and have afforded such an abundant supply of lime to the soil, that it may truly be said to be inexhaustible. So great is the amount of calcareous matter, it contains, particularly a few inches below the surface, that a brisk effervescence en-

sues when mixed with acids. I would not wish, however, to be understood to say that this is uniformly the case; but the quality of the land is apparently so near the same, and the disjointed lime-stone is distributed so regularly over the surface, that I can only regard the absence of an equal proportion of the carbonate of lime, as an occasional exception of the fact I have stated. When we add to the knowledge of this fact, that there is never any parching of the earth by drouth, as is often the case in more sothern latitudes, it can no longer be a matter of surprise that the crops are so abundant, or that the farmers of New York, on tracts of land from one hundred to a hundred and fifty acres in extent, should grow rich by the cultivation of the soil. Of their system of agriculture I shall speak in the proper place.

The lakes, I have said, form a remarkable feature in the geography of the state. They lie parallel to each other, extending from south to north; and every great natural valley is a reservoir for the waters of the neighboring streams. They are of very unequal elevation; the surface of the Cayuga, for instance, being forty feet lower than that of the Seneca, lying by its side, not more than twenty miles distant. This is obvious from the fact, that the outlet from the Seneca empties into the lower end of the Cayuga; and along its margin there is water power to considerable extent. The deepest part of Cayuga lake is about two hundred and fifty feet, which renders it probable that the red sand-stone forms the basin of these interior lakes, as well as those of Ontario and Erie. Near the extremities, however, the depth is not so great. They were formerly inhabited by shell fish in large numbers, as is evident from the extensive bed of marl found at the lower end of the Cayuga. It is very pure, and of such whiteness that it was formerly used for whitewashing the farm houses; but it is latterly substituted by stone lime. No use has been made of it for agricultural purposes.

These lakes, besides affording great facilities for intercommunication, agreeably diversify the country, and render it doubly charming to the lover of the picturesque. They are frequently seen by the traveler for miles before he reaches them, and in connection with the country lying in the distance on the opposite side, they furnish landscapes truly enchanting. Perhaps I could not convey a better idea of the beauty and situation of the country, than by briefly describing one of these landscapes. It was on a delightful afternoon in the month of August, when I approached the west bank of the Cayuga lake, with the intention of crossing over in the little steamer, which incessantly plies from one side to the other, a distance of three miles. Being detained longer than I expected, I had a favorable opportunity of contemplating the scene before me. The transparent sheet of water stretched far to the south, and on its unruffled bosom lay the little crafts, without a breath of air to move them; the opposite shore was sprinkled with numerous villages, whose white houses glittered in the soft rays of the evening sun; while beyond, in the back ground, the country rose from the water, for five or six miles, at a regular slope of a hundred feet to the mile, showing to infinite advantage the numberless small farms, and neat farm houses, like patches in the distance. It was altogether unrivaled by any thing I had ever seen, though I had scaled the summit of the Peaks of Otter for the purpose of having a view of the surrounding country, and had gazed with delight from the brow of Laurel Hill, which overlooks the western part of Pennsylvania.

In describing a country, it is proper to say something of the natural growth of the soil, as it is considered an indication of its quality. The forests of New York are extremely dense, and remarkable for the size, and particularly for the height of the trees. In summer their foliage presents a shield through which the sun can seldom penetrate. The most magnificent production is undoubtedly the American elm (*ulmus americana*); and the *u. racemosa*, a species peculiar to that locality, is scarcely inferior to it. The sugar maple and black maple—the tulip tree or poplar of the south (*liriodendron*)—the basswood (*tilia glabra*)—the beech and the two species of walnut—are the fit compeers of the elm. Besides these, there are many of the second class, among which may be enumerated the cucumber tree (*magnolia acuminata*), the white and black ash, the cotton wood (*populus angolata*), and several species of oaks. I was rather mortified to see these monarchs of our southern forests hiding their diminished heads beneath the elm and the maple. The soil is doubtless less congenial to the oaks than it is to the south, which are scrubby and stunted in comparison with the size they attain in Virginia. The species are, moreover, limited to a small number. The pines are only occasionally seen in the western part of New York; and when they do occur, it is in sandy districts of limited extent, between the lime-stone land and the lake. The white pine (*pinus strobus*,) is the most majestic, as well as the most valuable. The hemlock (*pinus canadensis*)—the Norway pine (*p. resinosa*)—the hack-match (*p. pendula*), and some inferior species, together with the arbor vitæ (*thuja occidentalis*,) grow in the same localities.

The extreme luxuriance of the deciduous forests on a highly calcareous soil, struck me as being incompatible with the theory of an ingenious and distinguished writer, published in a former volume of the Farmers' Register. In treating of the origin of the western prairies, he endeavored to sustain the position, that the presence of carbonate of lime was unfriendly to the growth of timber. If the position was assumed without any qualification, the facts I have stated must go to invalidate it; but if he had reference only to the oaks, which constitute the principal growth among the prairies, the limited number and small size of those growing on the lime-stone soils of New York, may necessarily tend to support it. Besides, there are many hardy southern plants, as I was informed, which will not flourish, or even grow, in the calcareous soils of that state. I regret that I cannot now enumerate them.*

I should not omit to state that the precipitous banks of the Niagara river afford an interesting and imposing view of the geological structure of the contiguous country. In the immense chasm which the current has worked out, we have almost at a glance of the eye, a sight of the different rocks which are found in the western part of the state. The strata are disposed so nearly horizontally, that we must suppose the elements to have been in a state of almost entire quiescence during their deposition. There is, however, a gradual dip to the south. which becomes apparent in ascending the river. Beginning at the base of the mountain ridge, the red sand-stone forms the substratum, which is distinctly visible for two or three miles up the river. Overlying this, and commencing at the mountain ridge, is the common lime-stone, rising suddenly to the height of some two hundred feet. Ascending the river some miles, this deposite gradually sinks, and another of the fœtid limestone commences, and continues with equal regularity. At the falls, which are seven miles from the mountain ridge, this is the only rock to be seen, which in its turn is overlaid by the hornstone or cornitiferous limestone, upon which the waters of the Niagara flow, after being discharged from Lake Erie. If, therefore, as some writers suppose, the falls are gradually receding, the hornstone will offer a barrier at which their progress will be arrested, and which they can never by possibility overcome.

Having dwelt, perhaps too long, on subjects of a general character, I shall defer, until another month, the remarks I propose to offer on other matters.

(*To ce continued.*)

* The position assumed in the "Essay on the formation of prairies," (p. 321, vol. iii.) which is referred to above, was not meant or stated as unqualified, or universally true. The writer believed, indeed, that a calcareous soil was less favorable to the growth of most forest trees, than a soil not calcareous. To some kinds, (as specified above by our correspondent,) such constitution of soil may be *positively* as well as *comparatively* unfavorable—and to others, as of the most usual kinds and numerous pines, a calcareous soil is altogether unhospitable, and seldom permits a single tree to live. On the other hand, some trees thrive best on soil containing mild calcareous earth, and will hardly live where that ingredient is altogether deficient, and greatly wanting to the constitution of the soil; of these, the common locust, (*robinia pseudacacia*,) is the most striking example.

But the mode in which the calcareous quality of soils was supposed (in the theory of the formation of the prairies,) to prevent the growth or continuance of trees in general, was not only, nor principally, by being *directly* unfavorable—but *indirectly*, by favoring, in a much greater degree, the growth of rank grass, which furnished every winter more and more fuel to the fires, as the trees more and more gave way to their effects, and to the more vigorous and increasing growth of grass.—Ed. Far. Register.

From the Franklin Farmer.

The value of the Improved Durham Cattle over the Common Breed.

Mr. Editor:—I entertained the common prejudice against the supposed superiority of the improved breed of Durham cattle over the common stock, until that prejudice was removed by an incident that occurred to myself, which I beg leave to relate:

Some two years since, I was induced by the prospects of speculation, to desire the purchase of fifty head of fat cattle for the southern market. Early after, an opportunity was presented, and I was in the act of negotiating the purchase of the number desired, fed and fatted by a good grazier in an adjoining county. They were of the common scrub breed, and were from five to seven years old, estimated to average the weight of six hundred; it is true, that in point of weight they were below the ordinary standard of that description of cattle. A few dollars split, prevented the immediate close of the purchase. Whilst I was hesitating, a gentleman knowing my views remarked to me—"Sir, if your object is to carry bullocks to the south, or rather the New Orleans market, would you not find it to your interest to buy larger bullocks?—you calculate upon taking them to market on board a steamboat where the charge of freight is by the head, and a large one will not in all probability cost more than a small one. I understand that Gen. Shelby has about the number you want, of large cattle, which he now offers for sale." I was immediately struck with the force of the suggestion, and in a few days afterwards repaired to Gen. Shelby's to see his stock; he had some sixty odd; sixty of which were of the improved stock averaging about three quarter blood. They were four and rising four years old, and were supposed to weigh on the average 1000 lbs each. Whilst there, another gentleman purchased them and took them to the Cincinnatti market, who afterwards informed me that they exceeded the estimate of their average. I at once became struck with the superiority of the stock for grazing. First, they came to maturity earlier than the common stock; by which the grazier and feeder saves from one to three years feeding, care and risk—a matter of great importance, in the more rapid turning over of the capital invested;—second in the saving of expense and risk of keeping; but what is of the greatest moment, the production is one-third or at least one-fourth more.

As milkers and the capacity of producing butter, they are decidedly superior to the common stock. It is true, that a cow of the common stock, that is left to the precarious means of support from commons and wild herbage will succeed better than a Durham cow accustomed to good pastures and being fed; but as no good farmer would be willing to treat his stock in that manner, the parallel should not be taken. But above all, in the view of political economy, the Durham is vastly superior to the common stock. Let their value be real or fictitious, it is unquestionably true that those of the true breed do, and will continue to command at least a threefold price over the common kind. Then in proportion as the one is more generally bred than the other, the aggregate wealth of the State or community will be enlarged or depressed.

Let not the enterprising breeder be alarmed at the apprehension that any probable increase of this stock will overrun the market and fall profitless on his hands. No such thing—the vast regions of the great valley of the Mississippi have to be supplied with them, and all the efforts of all the enterprize that may be directed will not be sufficient to supply the demand in half a century to come.

The improvement of this stock has engaged the attention of the enlightened farmer in England for at least half a century, and with all the capital and enterprize devoted to the object in that country, the demand continues as active for them as at any former period, without any reduction of prices.

A Farmer of Franklin.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Culture of the Morus Multicaulis.

Mr. L. Tucker—By means of failures in the culture of the best of all trees, the Morus multicaulis, it is to be feared many individuals are already discouraged, not possessing the requisite information on the start. Most welcome to those who have lately embarked in the silk culture must be the writings of such men as Gideon B. Smith and A. S. Chew, Esqrs. It is to the writings of practical intelligent men, who aim at the welfare and prosperity of our country, as well as their own interest, the public must look for truth and facts, that will successfully guide the inexperienced in this new and delightful enterprise. My own experience so well accords with these gentlemen, both in the rearing of the tree and the worm, that I know implicit confidence may be placed in their writings, and that it is entirely unsafe to attempt growing the tree in this northern latitude, except the buds be started early in the spring. All such as have ripened the wood, though it be but the first joint, standing in a dry soil, will endure our most severe winters equal to the most hardy tree of the forest. To plant the trees or cuttings as late as the 15th or 20th of May, is a very great error, for a few of them only will ripen the crown joint, and such as do not, whether protected or not, will surely perish.

In January or February, 1836, we wrote to Messrs. Prince & Son for half a thousand cuttings; they wrote to us, "when the canal opened it would be in time." Now had those gentlemen have given us the information published by Mr. Smith, i. e. to receive them early and set in a hot bed, we might now have fifteen or twenty thousand trees and cuttings, from the number sent. However, we waited—navigation commenced, and some four weeks after the cuttings arrived. All the care and attention was bestowed that was required. Mark the sequel: eighty-eight of these grew and attained the height from six inches to two feet. After the frost in September, the trees were removed to the cellar, and the roots placed in a box of earth. About the 15th of April last, my half of the trees were set out in a dry sandy loam, and rich enough for thirty bushels of corn to the acre. The appearance of the first bud was on the 23d of May; six of the whole number sent up shoots—the remainder had not sufficently ripened the wood, and the consequence was, a total loss of all but the six, which have sent up the shoots to a foot in height; the wood of the latter is ripe, and have furnished about 130 buds to grow from next year.

The above facts will show how we have been thrown upon the back ground by not being in possession two years ago of the experimental knowledge in growing the Morus multicaulis now published by the above mentioned gentlemen. Experience teaches that the mulberry requires six months to grow from the bud before it will ripen its wood, and unless there be one ripe joint, no protection will save the tree. In more southern latitudes, where the growing season is eight or ten months, and trees attain a height of eight feet or more, the practice of starting the mulberry in a hot bed will evidently not be necessary; but except we take that course, we must not expect to succeed in so desirable an object. J. S.

Snow Storm, and brilliant Aurora Borealis.

Mr. Editor—For the gratification of those of your readers who wish to collect facts on meteorological subjects from different parts of the country, I hastily send you an account of these two phenomena, which, (especially the latter,) have, I suppose, been extensively observed throughout our country.

The snow began to fall here about 12 to 1 o'clock on the morning of the 14th inst., and was at first mixed with hail, and perhaps a little rain. The preceding day had been fine and temperate, and almost clear, till about sunset, when a few clouds appeared in the west, that soon after spread over the sky. The snow probably continued to fall without intermission during the remainder of the night, being three inches deep in the morning. The falling continued till about 1 or 1½ P. M. soon after which the clouds broke, and the sun appeared a little before night. A pretty strong north-west wind continued during the fall of snow, and drifted it a little. The whole depthwas 6 to 7 inches. After sunsetting the sky was clear, except a few clouds in the west and north-west, and just about half past five a very bright and rich red aurora appeared, the brightest part being about 20 or 30° to the north-east of the zenith but the whole of the northern part of the sky being more or less tinged. The appearance varied greatly at different times, till the moon rose, which was at 6h. 10m., and though the aurora continued, it was not very bright or vivid till near 9 o'clock, when one of the most splendid and beautiful began that I ever before witnessed. In the zenith was a semi-circular star, composed of the most beautiful red and white rays intermixed; the diameter of the semi-circle being nearly due east and west. The whole northern half of the horizon was surrounded by a dark belt, (transparent, however, so that the stars were visible through it,) and from it emanated beautiful milk white rays, directed to the focus in the zenith, the rays of which appeared to have a motion round the center from east by north to west. Soon afterwards the star in the center became entire, having its rays diverging in every direction, and presenting a most astonishingly vivid, regular and beautiful appearance. Afterwards the star again had the form of a semi-circle, but its diameter was now north and south, but equally regular and vivid with the first. All these last appearances lasted perhaps half an hour, when the aurora became faint, and soon disappeared. The moon did not appear to lessen the distinctness of the aurora, except in its immediate vicinity. B. S.

Montgomery co. Penn., Nov. 17, 1837.

Wool Growing.

Mr. Tucker—The paper of "South Hill," from Cortland county, seems to deserve a moment's consideration, and himself desires to be corrected, if his positions are erroneous. Now I maintain that *wool-growing has been overdone*, because the *manufacture of wool has been overdone*. Both of these must be spoken of so as to include the *importation of wool and cloth*. There has been more cloth produced, and more wool worked into cloth, than the wants of the country and of trade demanded. This is evident from the fact, that, although *not half the usual amount of cloth has been this year manufactured*, the supply seems undiminished; the country is full of cloth, and prices are low—too low to give an adequate profit.

But some reply, money cannot be obtained for the manufacture in these times of depression and revulsion. The whole economy of trade shows the absurdity of this reply; for it is because there is so little demand for cloth that money cannot be obtained, and there is so little demand on the manufacturer, because the country is supplied. Hence it is, that the cloths of the former year yet lie unsold in the manufactories, or in the hands of their agents, wherever the proprietor is able to hold them and prevent the sacrifice. It is well known, that the cloths sold for months have been by the commission houses, at low prices, *often so low* that the manufacturer has ordered the sales to be stopped.

Speculation has wrought ruin in the manufacture of cloth. Indeed, it is only in lands and real estate, that the spirit of speculation has exceeded that in manufactures of cloth. All the manufacturers have driven their machinery to the greatest extent in their power, because the demand seemed so great. Hence it was, that "on the years in which our greatest clips have been taken, large quantities were imported." The present result shows, that while the demand then was not supplied, the *trade was more than supplied for years*, and the market was overstocked. The manufacturer produced so much cloth, that the demand on him has ceased, which he could not have done unless the *grower* had in those bountiful years raised more wool, or more found a place in the country, *than the trade required*. Until wool and woolen cloths shall cease to be imported, *wool-growing is overdone;* and when the importation shall cease entirely, the same spirit of speculation will lead the wool-growers to the same result, and a revulsion must follow.

The same remarks hold true of the cotton manufacture: though so many factories now produce but little, the country is full of cottons, even a full supply for a year or two to come.

The result is obvious. The agriculturists have turned too many of their farms to the rearing of sheep. It would be unwise rapidly to lessen their stock, or rashly to change their business. But they cannot expect the past prices very soon. They must raise more grain, and less wool, and wait for an improved state in the trade. *It will come on* —but it must be slowly. Most of the growers cannot hold on upon their wool; it must go at the reduced prices, which the demand on the manufacturer will permit him to give. This will make more slow the rise of the wheel, but it will rise in no other way, except by the destruction of the cloths now on hand, which would be ruin to multitudes of our deserving citizens. While he sees the truth, let not the farmer be discouraged. e.

Gore District, U. C., vs. the Empire State.

Mr. Tucker—Sir: In the number of the "Genesee Farmer" of the 4th instant, I remark a challenge regarding Mr. Zera Burr's extraordinary "turnep, of the kind known as the White Norfolk, weighing eighteen and a half pounds, and measuring two feet and ten inches in circumference. Who can beat this?" After perusing the above, I asked one of my men if he could equal it. He said he had not weighed any this season; but in the course of a few minutes brought me a ruta baga turnep weighing, with the top, *twenty-three pounds*—without the top, *nineteen pounds and three quarters*, and measuring *three feet and three-quarters of an inch in circumference!!!* The seed and turnep were both raised on my farm.

The result proves that mammoth productions are not exclusively confined to the citizens of the Empire State. Oblige me by publishing the above.

Your most ob't serv't, Fred. Suter.

Ancaster, Gore District, U. C., Nov. 22, 1837.

Large Pears, &c.

Mr. Tucker—I noticed an article in your paper which mentioned a pear weighing thirty-two ounces; perhaps many of your readers will call this a ——, but, sir, permit me to tell one still larger, and if you wish, *proof can be had*. In the town of Barre, Orleans county, on a farm a little east of Albion, twenty pears were raised from one tree, the smallest weighing *thirty-six* ounces, and the largest FORTY-ONE!—they were hung up during the winter in a cellar, and in the spring the large pear weighed *thirty-nine* ounces. The pears were raised from a graft which was put in an apple tree, and was only four years old.

There is also an apple tree which bears apples, one half of each apple being sweet, and the other sour, divided by a belt or ring passing around the apple vertically.

I have raised a cabbage this summer in my garden, with seven heads from one stalk. Yours, &c. W. B.

Barre, Nov. 24, 1837.

From the Tennessee Farmer.

Manures and Manner of Applying them.

The following letters from Mr. Sampson of Goochland, Va., will be found highly interesting. They contain more valuable information on the subject of the application of manures, than any article of the same length which we have met with, We can answer for the correctness of his plan. having ourselves tested the superior advantages of it:—

"*Dover, Goochland, Jan.* 31, 1833.

"The surface manuring mentioned by my neighbor, Col. W., has become very much the practice in this section of the country. I have myself applied my manure in that way for several years past, and with good effects. I have also selected my wheat fields as the most advantageous application of the manure, that is, for the benefit of both wheat and clover, as my wheat fields are uniformly sowed

down with clover seed. I have ascertained satisfactorily from practice, that land of *inferior grade* will be better taken with clover with a light application of manure on the surface, than land *much better* without it; nor have I any doubt but that it is the best practice, if wheat alone is the object. My practice for the application of the manure has been, to be well prepared with team and tools, for the speedy hauling when the land is frozen, in order that no injury may be done the wheat. The spreading may be done almost at any time, provided you do not let it remain long enough to bleach or injure the wheat. I am well assured, that the best application that can be made of manure is on the surface, for both wheat and clover; and through the agency of the clover, I would say the best for the land. I have no doubt that it may be extended doubly as far, advantageously. I also consider wheat straw worth more on the surface, than any other application of it; indeed, I use but little in any other way, and use leaves from the woods as litter for my stack-yards."

"*February* 23*d*, 1833.

"With respect to to my practice with the use of manure, it varies somewhat according to circumstances, having such a variety of soils, and the condition in which the land is found varying from the actual gullied or galled state, to all the grades of naturally good and mean land. It suffices to say, that when a piece of land is intended for cultivation, which is entirely exhausted, gullied or galled, the first process would be to give it a more even surface by ploughing in and levelling gullies, &c. When this is done, I litter freely, for the purpose of turning in with the plough; leaves from the woods I prefer, as they are more readily turned under than straw, which enables me to keep more straw for applying on the surface, where I greatly prefer it. I usually plaster the litter before turning it in, say at the rate of a bushel to a bushel and a half per acre. On land thus prepared, I seed oats, but reap but little, as might be supposed. I fallow this land again, and seed wheat in the fall, when the litter thus turned in is pretty well rotted. On the wheat I top dress lightly, and plaster again, say three pecks to a bushel per acre, which produces a saving crop of wheat, and enables me to get the land well taken with clover, which I think an all important object where improvement of the soil is wished. My wheat straw I generally apply on my pasture land, twelve months, or more or less, as may be convenient, before ploughing in.

"The manure which I use for top-dressing is generally pretty well rotted, having been made the winter previous to using it. For instance, the manure of this winter's making I apply next winter, taking advantage of all leisure times with teams, &c., in spring and summer, to collect my manure from the different yards in which the different kinds of stock are kept, some kinds of which are better than others—say, from stable yards, sheep, cattle and hog-pens; from ash banks and wood yards, together with leaves which have been heaped the winter previous in the woods. I haul to the fields intended to be seeded with wheat, (during the summer as above mentioned,) manure from the different places named, forming heaps that will contain from thirty to fifty heavy wagon loads, as the case may require, making those deposits at the most convenient places for speedily applying them on the wheat when the land is firm, (or frozen would be preferred,) hauling alternately from all the kinds enumerated, so as to form a regular layer of each, where it remains until used. I then cut it down from top to bottom as they are removing it, which mixes it in such a way as to give a due admixture of all the manures on every part on which it is applied.

"Manure accumulated in the different stock-yards from the commencement of winter, and remaining until mid-summer or later, possibly some until fall, will not run into great heat; and should it be so disposed, the fermentation will be over before applying it on the wheat in winter.

Yours, respectfully,

RICHARD SAMPSON.

A NEW USE FOR APPLES.—That apples will fatten pigs, cattle and children, has got to be an old story. It is now known that they will fatten poultry. Geese and ducks feed upon them, with avidity, when broken, and dung hill fowls also, and will peck and eat the mellow apples which fall from the tree. We have several kinds of early apples which the fowls attack as soon as they fall, and our ducks swallow our Siberian crabs entire. Now if apples will make pork and beef, and thousands can attest to this fact, why will they not make fat the goose, the duck and the chicken? All that is required is that they should be mellow or broken, or perhaps it would be better to have them boiled.—*Cult.*

From the Lynn Record.

Agricultural Societies.

The Agricultural Societies of this country, we have always believed, might be and have been productive of much good: and the patronage bestowed on them by the legislature of this state, is well directed. One of the benefits is the tendency they have to make agricultural pursuits honorable. Formerly the idea was quite prevalent, that none but ignorant and stupid men would work on a farm; and if a boy showed indications of sprightliness and intelligence, he was forthwith destined to stand behind the counter of some merchant, trader or *retailer*, to fit him up for a gentleman. No greater mistake could be made. Of all employments, that of a farmer is the most conducive to health and vigor of body and mind, and especially to independence of mind. To the yeomanry of our country we must look for the preservation of our liberties.

Another obvious benefit derived from these societies, has been the improvement in the breeds of domestic animals, especially in swine. It is true, the backwoodsmen are continually pouring in upon us a motley mixture of raw-boned, long-snouted, coarse bristled, squealing animals; but the beautiful and thrifty Bedford breed are very extensively spread throughout this Commomwealth. In the breeds of cattle, too, there has been a vast improvement, especially in the middle and westerly parts of the state.

In Worcester county, where the annual exhibitions of the agricultural society have eclipsed in richness and splendor those of any other place in the U. States, not excepting Brighton, the attention to the improvement of live stock has been great, and the beneficial effect the most visible. There, too, have been the best exhibitions of working oxen, and of dairies. The Sutton oxen and the New Braintree cheese are every where favorably known; and the premiums for butter at the annual fairs in Boston have been heretofore mostly awarded to farmers in that county.

There is one branch of agriculture which, though it has not been wholly overlooked, has never received that attention which its vast importance deserves. We refer to—

The Cultivation of Trees.—While fathers are hoarding up riches to make spendthrifts of their sons, they might with the tithe of the labor rear a plantation of timber, forest and fruit trees, which would afford a greater and more permanent income for generations to come. Some premiums, it is true, have been offered, but nothing in proportion to the immensity of the object. Nearly all the different kinds of valuable timber trees, which are now procured at immense labor and expense, might, with comparatively trifling expense, be raised in every town. A little patience, and a few years time only would be necessary. Enough white oak trees might be planted and raised on ten acres of land to supply a whole town with that kind of timber for many years. So of sugar maple, beach, wild cherry, and any other kind of timber and forest trees.

Fruit trees are of rapid growth and profit. A few years only are necessary to their maturity, and yet what immense profits may be made from them. One acre of thrifty pear trees, without any other labor than the picking, will yield a ten-fold greater profit than the same field planted with Indian corn; for good land at a moderate estimate will support one tree to every square rod, or 160 trees to the acre. Good sized trees, in full bearing, will produce five bushels each. This sroduct, at the present price, $2 per bushel, would be $10 per tree, or $1600 per acre. Take a fourth part of this sum as an average crop, and we have $400, one tenth of which is $40, equal to a common, or even good crop of corn, which would require ten times the labor.

Apple trees will yield a much greater annual profit than any grain, which can be produced on the same quantity of land. The best place for apple trees is by the side of stone walls on the borders of fields. There they are out of the way. The roots are not exposed to be cut off by the plough; the shade of the trees but little obstructs the growth of vegetation; the stones attract warmth and moisture, and afford protection and nourishment to the roots and branches. Even the borders of a field, *ornamented* in this manner, will produce more than all the field beside, devoted to the raising of corn or grain.

Ornamental trees, by the way side, may be as profitable as they are pleasant and comfortable. Maple trees, carefully planted where there is sufficient warmth, richness and moisture, may yield an abundance of sugar, and afterwards throw over the traveler a most comfortable shade. This is not all. Trees are a great protection to a road against the wear and tear of wind and storm; and should be an object of attention in every well regulated neighborhood. A road on a hill side, exposed to wind and weather, needs annual repairing; but protected by a thick shade of overhanging trees, it may go many years without any.

THE VINE.

The following article, from one of the most scientific and successful cultivators of the vine in the west, will be read with profit by all those who feel an interest in this subject. We copy from the Cincinnati Republican.

THE VINTAGE.

The vintage this season has been later than usual, and the produce not abundant. Early in the season, the vines promised as well as I have ever seen them, but our season has been unusually cool and wet, and one half our grapes dropped in the early part of it. My crop will fail a few barrels short of one hundred, but the quality promises to be good. From my own experience I should discard the old doctrine, of allowing the grapes to shrivel before gathering, and coincide with recent French writers, who are of opinion that more is lost in the aroma, than is gained in the saccharine principle. The more so, as the latter can always be supplied, and equally good with that obtained by shrivelling of the fruit. Decidedly the finest grapes of the season, was a small vineyard of half an acre, the property of Mr. Jacob Resor.

This vineyard is on the Ohio River, four miles below the city, on the side of the hill, fully exposed to the south. This is the first year of their bearing, and the fourth season since planting. His superior success this season is principally owing to their being young vines, and the ground dry. In dry, warm seasons, even a north exposure, will yield better. Heretofore we have planted no vine nearer than five feet from plant to plant, each way; his are planted three by four. His grapes are the Catawba, Isabella, and Cape, (SchuylkillMuscadel.) The product of his half acre, was 25 barrels of wine, of 30 gallons per barrel, being 1320 gallons to the acre. In a recent work on the manufacture of wine, by Bussby, he states that Mr. Ruinart of Champagne, one of the largest proprietors of vines in that region, informed him that the largest yield with them was eleven hundred gallons per acre; yet his vines were only eight or nine inches apart one way and six or seven inches the other.

The vine with us is less subject to injury than in any part of France or Germany, in which the best wines are made. They also complain of the wines becoming acid and ropy, neither of which evils have I met with in my wines. I have discontinued the cultivation of the Isabella entirely. I have made a wine from the Catawba equal, and I believe superior to the best wines of the Rhine; but it ferments unequally, and I can never tell what the quality of my wine will be till spring. In one instance, last fall, I drew two barrels from the cask in which the grapes had been mashed, at the same time, and placed them side by side in the wine cellar. The one was a brandy barrel, the other a wine barrel; the former appeared to be in a state of fermentation the whole winter, was dry and not fine when racked last spring. The latter never fermeated, was clear as amber, rich and sweet as the moment it was drawn from the cask. I bottled it, and it now has all the fixed air of champagne, but I have kept it in an an-

te-room attached to my ice-house, or it would have burst the bottles. The same is true of the wines of Xeres in Spain, till the fermentation is over, it is not known whether the wine will prove to be Sherry or Amontillado.

I am cultivating some new varieties of grape, that are entirely free from the hard pulp generally prevalent in our native grapes, and for the table quite equal to the foreign grape; I have not yet tested the quality of all of them for wine. I have one variety, resembling the Noiren of Burgundy, that promises to make a superior wine, both red and white, but its produce will be comparatively small. The most celebrated of the Madeira wine merchants was recently in our city, when a bottle of these wines (red and white) was set before him, together with two bottles of Madeira, very old, of my own importing, red, [Tinto] and white. No intimation was given that either was domestic, but a gentleman at the table requested him to select the best; he decided in favor of the domestic. The domestic wines were new, and I cannot say that I coincided with him in opinion, but I have known others, much better judges than myself, agree with him. The Cape always makes a fair wine, and should have brandy added in the spring; it is usual in all Madeira wines. It greatly improves by age, and resembles Madeira. At Vevay, this grape is always fermented in the skin, and a red wine made from it, which in my opinion is inferior to the white. The day is not far distant, when the banks of the Ohio, will rival the rivers of France and Germany, in the quantity and quality of their wines. But after an experience of twenty-five years, and a waste of time and money in the cultivation of a great variety of foreign grapes, and confine themselves to American varieties, and the producing of new varieties from their seed.

N. LONGWORTH.

Cincinnatti. Oct. 20th, 1837.

Elkanah Watson.

The following are the remarks made by this gentleman, now nearly 80 years old, at the late Cattle Show and Fair of the Berkshire Agricultural Society:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of this glorious Agricultural Society, and Ladies of Berkshire:

The friendly reception which I have experienced since my arrival in the midst of this interesting, I may justly and, this patriotic community, (after a lapse of about 20 years,) excites in my heart conflicting emotions, which I could not repress or describe were it necessary or proper. Since my last visit many active members of your society now lie mouldering in the dust. Their names and their deeds are justly entitled to the tribute of a grateful community, and deserve to be recorded in your annals. The residue will soon follow, and thus enlarge the catalogue. A new generation will occupy their places, benefitted by all your practical experience. The fame of the Berkshire Agricultural Society pervades every section of the United States by its practical effects, its usefulness, and its example.

Your admirable perseverance and steady efforts for a long course of years, evince that it has taken deep root in public opinion, and will be perpetuated, eventually converting the county of Berkshire into a comparative garden and placing its sons and daughters in such enviable positions as to preclude the necessity of emigrating to far distant regions for the most part in the delusive pursuit of bettering their condition.

You have wisely continued to hold your feet firm on the stiff neck of Party Spirit, the bane and curse of all useful institutions, unconnected with politics. In steadily pursuing this fortunate course you merit all praise; since where it has been permitted to enter, it has blighted all similar institutions, founded on your model, in other states. In a word, you have all just reason to be proud of your society; inas much as every department, through two interesting days, is now reduced to system, order and decorum. Even at your fine social dinners the same method is observable, and the eye of patriotism cannot fail to be gratified in the exclusion of spirituous liquors.

My friends, having sunk deep in the vale of years, I cannot indulge the hope ever again to witness another of your splendid exhibitions. Although I have long indulged a wish to be with you on these auspicious occasions, to participate in common with you in the exercise of this far famed society, yet on touching the confines of four-score, I had abandoned the idea, till within a few weeks; and was induced at length, to make the effort, on hearing that the distinguished Orator of the day, the efficient patron of American Agriculture as a science was to take a conspicuous part on the 29th anniversary; which I doubt not will result in great good, and will tend to revive the expiring energies in the great state we inhabit; and thus renovate, under the influence of your example, Agricultural Societies in all their 56 counties, paving the way to the institution of an Agricultural Seminary, to qualify young farmers to conduct these societies, as well in theory as in the practical knowledge of the science of Agriculture.

If I might be indulged in an enthusiastic flight on this highly interesting and animating anniversary, I would compare this institution figuratively, to the sun in the Heavens in reference to Agriculture; the centre of light and admiration of the nation, who feel the influence of its rays, and yet, we can discern the feeble, expiring efforts of many other Agricultural Societies while some are standing erect, treading in your footsteps. You have every incentive, therefore, divested of personal considerations, to stimulate your perseverance, regardless also of a trifling annual contribution to sustain its salutary measures.

Permit me gentlemen while bending under the weight of years, once more to bid you all a final, a last farewell. That the Great Eternal may continue to shower his benedictions on your heads and inspire your hearts, and those of your descendants, in process of time, to uphold and sustain the society in all its original purity through many generations, is my earnest prayer. Once more—a long—long—farewell!

Economy in Feeding.

There is perhaps no department in the business of Agriculture so *little* attended to in this country as that of economy in the feeding of stock, and none which requires *more* attention. It has been demonstrated time after time that the mere bruising of oats, or corn, or the cutting of hay, adds fully one-third to its value as food: that is, that one-third less in quantity of either will answer. That this is the fact we have no doubt, and have long been surprised that so few persons, owners of stock, adopted this mode of feeding. No one who has watched with a discriminating eye the effects of feeding animals with whole grain but must have observed the fact that a large portion comes from them precisely in the same condition it was received by them into their stomachs. The reason of this is obvious: their stomachs have become so enfeebled, by being long used to unbruised grain, corn, or oats, as to be unable to digest the regular portions of these substances daily given them. This fact alone should bring about a reformation, as it is calculated to convince any one capable of drawing just deductions from well established principles, that all food which is voided in an undigested state, so far from having done any good must have been the cause of much positive harm, as all bodies which lie in the stomach in that condition are so many sources of irritation, derangement, and disease. But there is another view which we do not recollect to have seen enforced,—it is this: that by crushing or bruising all grain food given to cattle, the manure will be more valuable. How often do we see a piece of ground which has been manured from the horse stable so covered with oats as to induce the belief in a stranger that *oats* had absolutely been sown, when in fact they had sprung from the undigested grains which had passed through the horses. The trouble which such foul manure imposes upon the husbandman we need not mention, as sad experience has made every one intimate with it. If then one-third in quanty of grain can be saved; if that fed is more nutritious, if the manure made from it is cleaner and better, why should farmers or planters hesitate a moment? Why do they not at once abandon a practice so replete with evil? We leave the solution of these questions to those interested, and shall proceed to another branch of our present business.

What is the best food for horses in winter, economy considered?

Before we reply to this question we will premise that we may set it down as a safe calculation, that the average yield of oats and corn in the United States is not more than 25 bushels to the acre. There are, to be sure, many districts of country in which there are numerous instances of quantities far above this, produced upon an acre of ground; but then when we speak of the avarage for the *whole* country, we consider it would be unsafe to go beyond the quantity we have named. In 25 bushels of grain there are 200 gallons, and as the usual quantity given to a horse at a meal is one gallon, and he is fed three times a day, 25 bushels, or the product of one acre, will be 66⅔ days. Now let us see how stands the account with carrots. An acre of carrots planted on sandy loam well manured, say 20 double cart loads of short manure, if properly attended, that is thinned to the distance of 4 inches in the rows, and weeded and worked three times, will yield 300 bushels, and as there are 1200 pecks in that quantity, and 3 pecks will sustain a horse a day, so will 1200 pecks sustain him 400 days, or 4 horses 100 days, or 5 horses 80 days. The advantage of such product for winter feed we think so obvious as not to require further illustration. Every farmer knows that there are long periods of time during the winter months when the horses on a farm do but little work, and during those periods the carrots are just as good for them as either oats or corn, and require but little more trouble in their preparation, for if they be not very large the horses will consume them without cutting, so that all they require is washing, a labor which can be performed in 15 minutes for twenty horses. It is said that they are not as substantial food as either oats or corn; true they are not; but when horses are *idle* during winter, less substantial food will answer. Good hay and carrots will not only keep them in good heart, but *fat*, if they be properly attended to, are carefully watered, curried and warmly kept. Carrots will keep buried in the open air from November till May, during all which period they may be advantageously fed to horses. The benefit which would arise to the farmer from such a course of feeding, will, we are certain, strike the most superficial observer, as it would enable him to sell more of his grain, if he had a large surplus; and if the reverse, he would find his profit in the decreased demand upon his granery. It may, and doubtless will, be said that the culture of the carrot is a troublesome one; but on the other hand we affirm that that they are no more so than *corn*, if the latter be well tended: they require *thinning*, so do corn, they require to be kept clean, so do corn, and we affirm without the fear of contradiction, that they do not require to be oftener worked, and as we have demonstrated that they will go nearly six times as far we recommend their culture to the consideration of our readers, and in so doing, discharge not only a duty, but one which we fell assured will be well received, because well intended.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

Management of Horses—Fattening.

To fatten a horse in a short space of time has generally been considered a great art, and attended with much difficulty. Some authors are of opinion it is necessary for a horse to swallow a certain quantity of medicine to produce the desired effect; while others rely on an uncommon or peculiar kind of food; but experience has proved that both opinions are erroneous, and that the few samples which I shall here recommend, together with good rubbing and a particular manner of feeding, will accomplish the fattening of a horse that is not a garron or extremely poor, within three or four weeks. After your stable is prepared, (as directed in page 47,) provide a plenty of good sweet corn, hominy, oats, bran and fodder; also a sufficient quantity of straw to keep him with a comfortable and clean bed; then notice the condition of the animal, for the purpose of bleeding in the neck. Should he be very poor, take from him only one quart of blood; if in tolerable plight two quarts—repeating the bleeding at the expiration of every eight or ten days, un-

til he is fat. Take of flaxseed one pint, boil it to a strong tea of one quart; take of powdered brimstone, one table spoonful; salt-petre, one tea spoonful; of bran one and a half gallons; mix them altogether, scalding the bran with the tea, forming a mash; which may be given every eight days: not permitting the horse to drink cold water for eight or ten hours afterwards. Take of assafœdita (which can be procured from any apothecary's shop) half an ounce; wrap it in a clean linen rag, and nail it in the bottom of the manger where the animal is fed; at first the horse will eat unwillingly where it is placed, but in a few days he will grow remarkably fond of it.

When you commence kind treatment towards a horse that has been cruelly used, let it be with great caution, or you may produce a founder or some other injury; those serviceable animals being too often hard used and half starved. For three or four days, allowance to a horse (you contemplate fattening) two to two and a half gallons a day, six or eight bundles of fodder, or an equal quantity of hay; after which you may keep your rack constantly full of long food, and never permit the manger to be entirely empty: taking care to change the food every day, giving the largest proportion of bran, viz:—bran and hominy, bran and oats, bran and corn, bran alone, oats, corn, hominy, &c. &c. The food moistened occasionally with strong sassafras tea, produces an admirable effect; it whets the appetite, enriches the blood, and opens the bowels. Whenever a horse is fed, all dust, sour food, &c. should be removed from his manger, which should be washed twice a week with vinegar and salt; this kind of attention will aid the appetite and keep the manger sweet and clean. If the season of the year you undertake to fatten in affords green food of any kind, a little, about 12 o'clock, would assist you much in accomplishing your object. In the bucket in which you water, throw a handful of salt, two or three times a week; it becomes very grateful to the taste, after a few days confinement, and will prevent his pawing and eating dirt. If the object is to fatten a horse as speedily as possible, giving to him unusual life and spirits, he should not be brought out of the stable, nor even led to water. But if flesh is to be placed upon a horse to render hard service, I would recommend moderate exercise once every three days, carefully avoiding fretting or alarming him; more injury may be done a horse by fretting him one day, than you can remove in a week by the kindest treatment. The hoofs should be cleaned out every morning and evening, stuffed with clay and salt, or fresh cow manure, to keep the feet cool and prevent a swelling in the legs. A plenty of good rubbing is absolutely necessary for the placing of flesh speedily on a horse: and a blanket as a covering, at any time except the summer months, will place on his coat of hair a beautiful gloss, and add much to his comfort and apparent value.—*Pocket Farrier.*

Agricultural Societies.

The interests of farmers are undoubtedly very much advanced by the formation of Agricultural Societies; and we have often wondered that the farmers of Genesee county should manifest so little interest on the subject; for it is no more than reasonable to suppose, that it is in consequence of a lack of interest on their part, or otherwise they would avail themselves of the important advantages to be derived from associating together, to more effectually promote each others interest in the science of Agriculture. Perhaps there is not a County in the State where an Agricultural Society would be of more general advantage to the producing class, than in this, if we may properly estimate its importance, from the fertility of the soil, and the natural advantages of the various commodities which it produces. What are denominated our Northern Towns, are peculiarly adapted to the growth of wheat, and in this respect are not excelled by any portion of the State: while those which are called the Southern Towns, with few exceptions, are essentially, a territory of grazing lands; consequently, dividing the two interests between the grain growing and grazing districts, into nearly equal parts. By the organization of an Agricultural Society, the farmers of the North and the South would be associated, and annually brought together, where they could become acquainted, and familiar with their dependence upon each other, arising from the fact, that a portion of the staple productions of the one is frequently wanted for consumption in the other; and thus the prosperity of our citizens in both sections of the county would be more favorably promoted. But our object at this time, is not to attempt to enumerate all the advantages which our farmers might reasonably anticipate, from having stated periods, when they would meet together, to advise and consult each other, in reference to all the new and various improvements continually claiming their attention as agriculturists. We however make these remarks as a preliminary to what we intend in future on this subject; hoping that they may at least have a tendency to create a favorable expression of the feelings towards the promotion of the end for which they were designed. —*Farmers' Reg. & Jour.*

Farmers' Evenings.

In one respect the farmer has the advantage of almost all other classes of the laboring community, his evenings he has to himself. While the mechanic has to labor from morning till nine o'clock in the evening, the farmer's day commences with the rising and closes with the setting sun. Although the *industrious* farmer finds many little jobs of work, to which he very economically appropriates his evening leisure, yet the greater part of the long winter evenings he can appropriate to his amusement and instruction. In no place do we see more cheerful countenances than around the blazing fire upon the farmer's hearth. There, at the merry apple pearing, or at the neighborhood collection, or even in the family circle alone, do we find social happiness in its purest simplicity. What an opportunity this for an acquisition of knowledge! What farmer who improves these opportunities can but be intelligent? And what instruction so interesting as that which gives him a knowledge of his own employment? Here we would suggest the importance of every farmer having a supply of agricultural books and papers. It seems to us that no one can be insensible of their utility. If this should be a suggestion of self-interest, which we do not deny, still we believe it coincides with the interest of the farmer. We will not enlarge on this subject, as we apprehend it would not convey that knowledge which we recommend. We will barely say, that we expect our subscribers to increase as the evenings lengthen.—*Am. Silk Grower.*

How to make a double crop on poor soil.

Plough up your ground intended for corn in the fall of the year, as deep as you can plough it; let it lie till spring; at the opening of which, when the frost is entirely out of the ground, give it a good ploughing and harrow it down. It is then in good order for preparing to plant. Take of slaked ashes two thirds, and of ground plaster one-third; mix them well together, and follow the droppers, and put as much of this mixture on the seeds as you can grasp in your hand, and cover it well over in the usual way. The corn will grow up finely, and retain a strong vigorous growth and green color, and stand the drouth much better than upon the strongest culture. The writer of this having tried the experiment for two years has fully tested its value.

A Small Cow.

We were truly gratified a few days ago at a sight of the smallest cow we have ever seen; she is a deep mahogany red, and shows that she bears in her veins the blood of the North Devon. Her owner, David Stewart, Esq. of this city, was informed when he bought her, that her sire was a Durham, and dam one of the small breed of cows, [probably the Scotch] many of which are in Pennsylvania. We, however, think that the sire was a *Devon*, for this diminutive specimen of cow flesh has all the points and color of one. Unlike most *very small* cows that we have seen, she has a *small* head, in close keeping with, and bearing a due proportion to, he dimensions. Indeed, we have never seen a more symmetrically made animal, each part vieing with the other in its beautiful adaptation to the other, and the whole forming as perfect a model of a cow as the eye need wish to alight upon. She is turned of three years of age, and has had one calf, which owing to its size had to be extracted from her.—When extracted and placed alongside of its mother, we were assured by Mr. Stewart that it was the tallest of the two. When fresh, with her first calf, she gave between three and four gallons of milk per day, thus proving that small though she be, she is every inch a cow.—*Baltimore Farmer and Gardener.*

Sugar Beet and Mangel Wurtzel.

One thousand and seventeen bushels of Sugar Beets and Mangel Wurtzel were topped and pulled by nine men in *three hours.* This is the production of a little over an acre of ground in Newton township, Gloucester county, New Jersey. Many of the beets weigh 12 lbs.—*U. S. Gaz.*

The advantages of the *beet culture* as provender for cattle, must obviously strike every agriculturist who may read the above paragraph; but for the sake of *accuracy* we could have desired that the exact quantity of ground occupied by these two varieties of beets had been named. Beets, whether of the Sugar Beet or Mangel Wurtzel variety, which will average 3 lbs. will yield, if planted at proper distances, *two feet* in the rows, and *one foot* apart, will yield per acre, 1089 bushels. That *three pounds* as the *average* is a moderate one, is made obvious by the fact that many of the above beets weighed 12 lbs. Had they all done so, and by proper manuring and after culture, they may be made to do so, they would have yielded to the acre 4396 bushels.—*Ib*

Spring Wheat.

A SUPPLY of the celebrated Italian Spring Wheat just received from Rome.

Also, the Siberian Beardless Spring Wheat, much cultivated and highly recommended in the northern part of this state. For sale by REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

dec 2 Rochester Seed Store.

The Rohan Potatoe.

THE subscriber has a quantity of Rohan Potatoe for sale. They were raised by him from seed obtained from France, and he believes them to be the most productive potatoe known, and a superior variety for the table. Letters (post paid) addressed to the subscriber at Cattskill, N. Y., will be promptly attended to, and the potatoes reserved for those who order till the spring, if they cannot be sent before.

Cattskill, Nov. 15, 1837 -f4t* JOHN A. THOMPSON.

Seeds for 1838.

JUST arrived at the Rochester Seed Store, a large importation of English Field and Garden Seeds, of the growth of 1837; shipped from London this fall expressly to our order, and comprising a full assortment of the choicest kinds, such as

Cabbage,	Ruta Baga,	Rye Grass,
Cauliflower,	Mangel Wurtzel,	White Dutch
Brocoli,	Sugar Beet,	Clover,
Radish,	Lucern,	&c., &c.
Turnep,	Trefoil,	

These Seeds are from one of the best establishments in Europe, and the perfect satisfaction which they have hitherto given, is sufficient guarantee of their character.

Dealers and others supplied at wholesale on very favorable terms. REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

nov18 fft

Fruit Trees For Sale.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has for sale at his Nursery in Rochester, Monroe county, state of New York, a large quantity of Fruit Trees, grafted and innoculated with the most approved kinds, now fit for transplanting, which he will sell on the most reasonable terms. SAMUEL MOULSON.

apr 15–tf

N. B. Cash will be paid for a few thousand two years old Apple Trees

Monroe Horticultural Garden & Nur-

SERIES, GREECE, MONROE CO., N. Y.

THIS establishment now comprises over 20 acres, covered compactly with Trees and Plants in the different stages of their growth.

The subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Grape Vines, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, splendid Pæonies, Double Dahlias, &c. &c.

Also, a large collection of Green House Plants, of choice and select varieties, in good condition.

Orders respectfully solicited. Trees and Plants, when ordered, are carefully selected and faithfully packed, and if desired delivered on the canal one mile from the Nursery, or at Rochester.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to every applicant gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer.

April 1, 1837. ASA ROWE.

BREAD STUFFS.

Views of a Rochester Miller.

The following very sensible letter is from a gentleman who in years past has favored us with his views on the Corn market. He has the best means of information, and so far the views he has communicated have turned out to be correct:

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 13th, 1837.

In your Journal of the 9th, under editorial, you have "Prospects of Business," &c. Among other things you notice particularly that of bread stuffs, and as New York is as much or more interested in the article, it being her great staple and having a greater number to provide for than any other State, it is important the facts, and all of them, should be well understood. Before the coming in of our harvest, the discussion commenced, and since then much has been said about the abundant, superabundant crops. And the error, for a great error it is, has grown mainly out of a studied disposition on the part of editors, and others interested in having it so, of trying to make out, what does not exist, a good crop. Without charging any one with an attempt to mislead the community on this important subject, I would merely say, that so strong has been the desire to have an abundant harvest, and judging as too many did at the time, from an extraordinary growth of vegetation, which was never surpassed in this section of country, many have been deceived. You may set down, as certain, that throughout the United States, our wheat crop is short. Please note that expression for future reference and remembrance, as all will better understand, ere the coming in of another crop. That we have good crops, and fair yields in certain sections of our country, there is no doubt, but that in the aggregate, it is short of an average crop, I have no doubt. You are very right, in saying, "our farmers are an independent set of lords as ever walked the earth," and you may add, intelligent,—and they keep in view, the supply and demand, with far more accuracy than any other class,—and why? because their numbers and interest are greater. You can no more hasten the time of these "lords of the earth," in marketing their produce than you can change the seasons, or hasten the day of the next harvest.

Great complaint is often made against those who deal in produce,—they are told that they need not pay so high prices, because if they pay high, they must ask high prices to sustain themselves. Those who make the charge know just as little about the state of things, as their charge is unjust. What, let me ask you and your readers, would have been the condition of your own city? and every other town upon the sea board last year, but for the early advance in bread stuffs last fall and winter,—which had for its direct tendency the issuing of immense orders, for importations, and the curtailment of consumption. What else could have given you a sufficient supply? or kept flour from being twenty dollars per bbl. or any other price the holder might have seen fit to ask? What else could have kept many of your own population from actual starvation? Nothing, nothing else.

You say too, in alluding to the flour market, that "the features of the market, are somewhat singular at the present moment. Let us see. The amount of flour going down the canal is something larger than last year, and if it was not, it would be strange indeed, with the amount of new lands annually cleared up, by an emigration westward, such as no country can boast. Our canals and our commercial interest, would indeed be in a bad way, were not our agricultural prospects moving onward. But, suppose the quantity of flour going down the canal to be materially increased, is not the various outlets for it, on arrival to your city, quite equal to a large annual increase? Does not your own city, and every other one upon the seaboard, boast of its yearly increase of population? and thereby necessarily demanding more from us? Have we not, in years gone by, been in the way of heavy receipts from the South? and are not the same places now taking from us an amount nearly equal to that which in formers years they have sent us? We are told too, that the New England States have an abundant crop of the coarser grains, and that they *can* live without wheat flour, but will they? No! sooner expect them to let loose from any other luxury than that which we are now discussing. Another item not to be overlooked while enumerating the causes of so large a demand for flour at this time,—at the coming in of the late harvest, the whole country was destitute, emphatically so. And to give each and every family a single barrel of flour, requires a larger amount than many of your readers would imagine, at a superficial view of the subject. But after all, the grand secret is, in a very great measure, that the dealers generally are adopting a wise and judicious course, and that is, of laying in their winter's supplies, at this season of the year, and not wait for flour to go into store, where additional commissions, storage, insurance, interest, and all the rest, will soon be charged upon it, and then perhaps be brought up as for three years past, with high prices—and higher still—and still higher. W.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

The Baltimore Patriot of Saturday states, "that a considerable rise has taken place in the price of bread stuffs of all descriptions within the past week and that prime Wheats are now worth two dollars a bushel, and other qualities and grains are at corresponding high prices. These advanced prices are owing, of course, to a short supply in the seaboard markets, owing partly to a partial failure of crops in certain sections of country on the seaboard, and to the late long-continued dry weather in other sections, which prevented the manufacture of the article into flour, with the usual facility and promptitude, to meet the immediate demand for consumption, after a season of scarcity. It is not to be expected that such prices as are now given for bread stuffs, can continue, when time shall have elapsed for the equalization of the last year's product to the demand: but the prices are now high with a market tending upwards. Let the Farmers therefore strike while the iron is hot, and profit by these fine prices."

Tobacco, too, rising smartly—some of the finer qualities, advancing 2, 3, perhaps 4 dollars per hundred.

THE MARKET.

City Mills Flour, $9 a9 ¼.
Country, do., 8 ¾.
Wheat, $190 a 1 95.
Corn, (old,) 95 cents.
Tobacco, $2 3 4 a 8, as in quality.

☞ Flour and Wheat are both scarce, and in active demand—The continued and unusually low state of the water courses, added to a steady demand has prevented the accumulation of stocks of either.

THE WHEAT CROPS OF 1835 AND 1836.—Assuming that the wheat crop is brought to market between the first of September and the 31st of August, and the following results are furnished by a comparison of the wheat crop of 1835 and 1836, so far as the comparison can be made, from the quantity coming to the Hudson river on the Erie canal, in each of the years referred to, viz:

Statement of the wheat and flour left at Albany and West Troy.

	Bush. wheat.	Brls. flour
From 1st Sept. 1835 to 31st Aug. 1836,	691,906	972,282
From 1st Sept. 1836 to 31st Aug. 1837,	430,857	687,658
Showing a decrease of	231,049	284,620

Estimating 5 bushels of wheat to a barrel of flour and the following results are presented, viz:

Flour coming to market on the canal from the crop of 1835,	1,105,233	barrels.
Flour coming to market on the canal from the crop of 1836,	773,829	do
Decrease,	331,404	do

This shows a decrease of the crop of 1836 compared with that of 1835, equal to 1,655,000 bushels of wheat. The deficiency of the wheat crop in this state and elsewhere, and the scarcity of vegetable food generally by the failure of all the crops in 1836, has been supplied by a large importation of foreign wheat and other grains, during the winter & spring of 1837. It is perhaps fair to assume that if the importations of foreign wheat be added to the crop of 1836, it will make it equal in quantity to the crop of 1835. If then the diminution in the quantity of wheat and flour coming to market on the canal in the spring of 1837, from the crop of 1836, has been made up from importations from abroad, the receipts thus far from the crop of 1837, compared with the receipts by the canal last fall, from the crop of 1836, ought to encourage us to hope that the extravagant prices of flour exacted last winter will not be kept up this, since there is an ample supply of coarse grains and vegetables.

The following is a comparison of the quantity of wheat and flour coming to market from the 1st Sept. to the 15th November, for the two last years, viz:

A statement of the quantity of wheat and flour arriving at the Hudson river on the Erie canal.

	Bush. wheat.	Brls. flour.
From 1st Sept. to 15th Nov., 1836,	320,596	346,473
From 1st Sept. to 15th Nov., 1837,	285,549	446,043
Decrease,	35,047	Incr'se 99,570

Estimating 5 bushels of wheat for a barrel of flour, and the comparison stands thus:

Flour coming to tide water on the canal for 45 days in 1837,	503,152	barrels.
Flour coming to tide water on the canal for 45 days in 1836,	410,592	do
Increase,	92,560	do

The quantity of flour and wheat arriving at Troy and Albany is equal, at this time, to ten thousand barrels per day, and if the navigation continues through the month of November, the quantity of flour brought to market from the first of September to the close of navigation will be from 600,000 to 650,000 barrels.—*Alb. Argus.*

THE SHOOTING STARS.—The recurrence of the phenomenon of the shooting stars on the 12th and 13th November—an event by the way, which had been predicted and looked for with better preparations to note its peculiarities than before—was observed at New-Haven, Ct., by several scientific gentlemen connected with Yale College; to each of whom was assigned a particular portion of the firmament. From a communication in the New-Haven Herald, which from the signature, we infer is from the pen of Professor Olmstead, the display appears to have been more brilliant there than elsewhere. Its peculiar character is described in the following paragraph:—"From the setting sun emerged large columns of a peculiar rose colored vapor; and before 6 o'clock an auroral pillar of a crimson hue, presented itself in the northwest, but before 7 o'clock every unusual appearance had vanished, leaving an unclouded sky."

During the night no less than 329 meteors were counted, occurring most frequently between 3 and 6 o'clock, during which they averaged about one a minute. These either radiated from a point near the zenith, or in lines which, if continued would have passed through that point.

The communication referred to closes with the following:—"The *spots upon the sun* (by some supposed to have a connexion with the zodiacal light, which have heretofore been noticed simultaneously with these meteors) are very remarkable at present, and peculiarly deserving the notice of astronomers. Tuesday 13th, eight distinct groups were visible on the sun's disc, even to the smallest telescope. Those, with large powers, could be resolved into more than sixty distinct spots."

SINGULAR MODE OF BUILDING WELLS.—Bishop Heber relates a curious method of sinking wells, practised among some of the Hindoos. They build, according to the Bishop's account, a round tower of the diameter required, and suffer it to stand a year or more till the cement is hardened, and the whole circle solid. Then they undermine it equally all round, and thus sink the tower, throwing the earth out from the inside. When the top is level with the surface of the ground, if water is not obtained, they build again, and again sink the tower. Upon any other than Bishop's authority this would seem hardly credible; especially to a Gothamite, accustomed to see such specimens of adhesiveness as the cement in new houses in this city presents. It would hardly answer to sink a New York contract built wall in this way. The natives of Hindostan, it is further stated, could make a well in no other way, as the soil is too sandy to allow them to dig.—*N. Y. Sun.*

The Etna Insurance Company have declared a dividend of five per cent. from the profits of the last year.